the State Government for the undivided Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts of the State which includes schemes for drought proofing, livelihood support, health services and disadvantaged groups which will help mitigate the poverty related problems of this area. This Plan is funded under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana on a 100 per cent grant basis and an amount of Rs. 100 crore has already been released in the current year.

Declaration of Kolhapur-Nagpur Road as National Highway

2440. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have acceded to the request of the Maharashtra Government to declare Kolhapur-Nagpur road as National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Ring Road of Nagpur city has been included in the Golden quadrilateral project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All the proposals for conversion of State Highways into National Highways have been returned to the State Government of Maharashtra. Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constrainst. The Government may, however, consider conversion of very limited lengths of a few State Highways into National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.